SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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editorial

The anti-war storm is raging in the USA

A political storm is raging furiously in Washington and San Francisco. Flows of demonstrators streamed into the streets for a show off of strength and from the US capital resounded the outcries: "Peace now! Peace now! We don't want your war! Bring the boys home now! End genocide in Indochina!" echoed by various States and the five continents. It is a storm for peace and against war, a tornade of wrath of the American people known for their love of justice and freedom, which is shaking the White House and putting the Pentagon on the alert.

It is not the first time that spring has become a hot time in the USA. Since the first days of the Viet Nam war, angry hurricanes have broken out in the States, to hit highs in the 1968 Spring, the 1969 Summer and Fall, and the 1970 Fall. But never hdve they reached the present tempest fury. It is an explosion of anger against the US brutal war policy, the irresistible upsurge of genuine patriotism and respect for the dignity of the American nation in whose veins runs the blood of Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

THE Western press, radio and TV have unanimously described it as "one of the largest — if not the largest anti-war demonstration America has had."

In Washington, for five days running, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets, marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to the US Capitol during five hours. In San Francisco, some 500,000 people attended a parade and huge rally. San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto who mingled with the marchers said the city officially endorsed an antiwar policy. The participants paraded on a 10km distance along the streets and in their rally demanded that the US pull out its troops from Southeast Asia now.

The large scale of the demonstrations in Washington, San Francisco and other cities highlights the significance of the 1971 Spring Action. It unequivocally indicates that the "silent majority" does not back Nixon, that it is not a "minority of extremists" but the masses of Americans, including Congressmen and active duty servicemen who oppose him. It shows that more and more Americans have taken part in anti-war activities which have now become the main preoccupation of the American life, the genuine desire and feelings of most Americans.

The dirty war of aggression in Indochina has not only sowed mourning and suffering among the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples, but constitutes also a real disaster for the USA. Its effect has ever more been acutely felt materially and morally by the Americans. America's life is being eroded by it. The scythe of Death has knocked at the doors of many homes and mowed down numbers of their sons. To increase its war budget, the US government has squeezed each dollar out of the taxpayers. The "Great Society" program remains on

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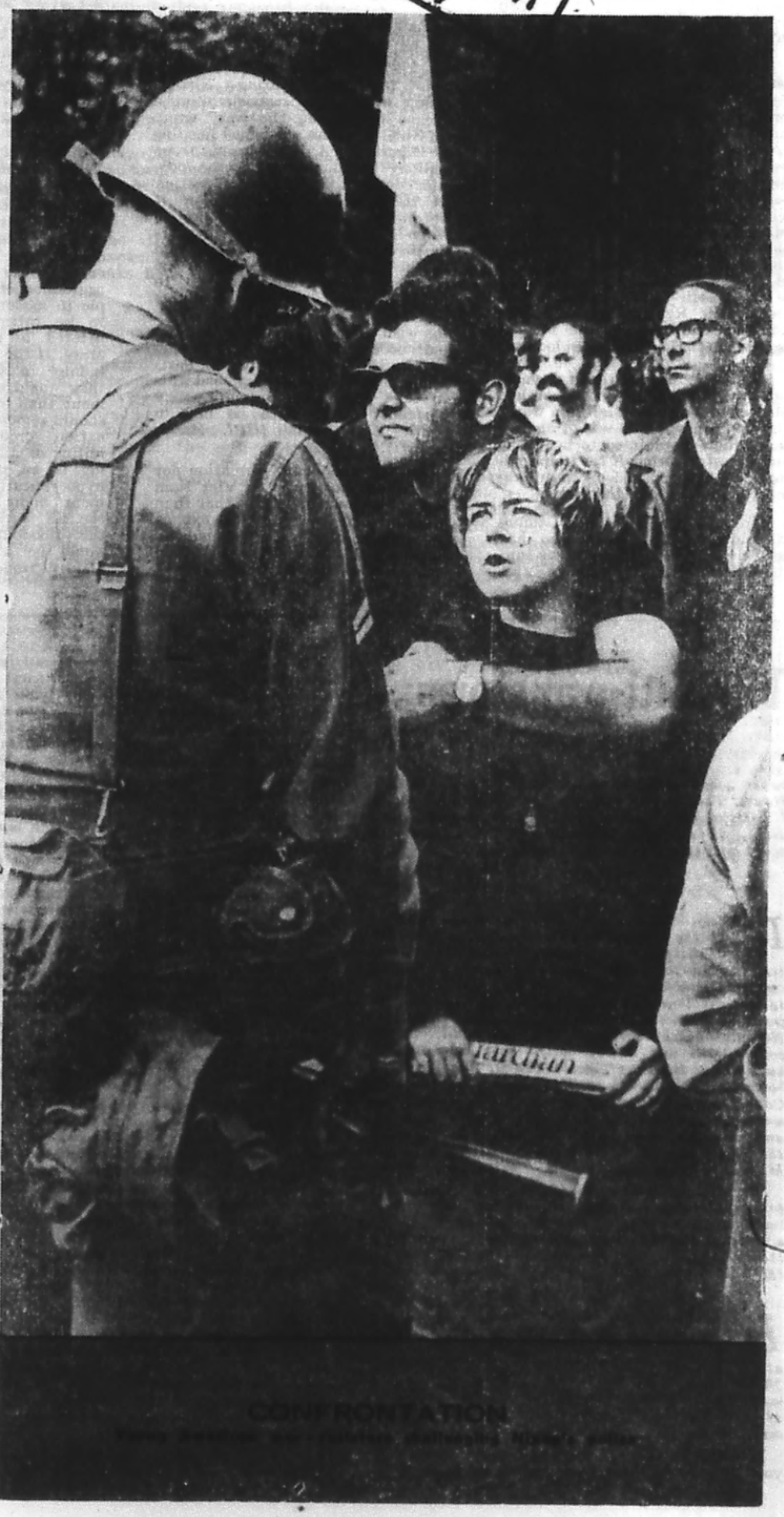

CONFRONTATION

NIXON AGAIN TRIES TO HUSTLE HIS "OLD RECIPE"

ON the evening of April 16, Nixon again discussed the Viet Nam issue. Of course, nothing new was to be expected from his talk. Only a week earlier, he had delivered a speech termed by *The Guardian* on April 13 "an old recipe on Viet Nam." This time, he did nothing short of trying to sell his "old recipe" for aggression composed of toxic chemicals, napalm 7-ton bombs and B.52s under the shopworn label of "peace."

Nixon attempted to placate US public opinion now embarking on a Spring campaign for an end to the war in Viet Nam and a time-limit for the total withdrawal of US troops. He reiterated the same promises: "We will end our involvement in Viet Nam." "Our goal is to withdraw all US troops from Viet Nam," etc. But he contradicted himself by putting forward conditions intended for an indefinite continuation of US military occupation of South Viet Nam, the carrying out of an hostile policy towards the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the enlarging of the war of aggression to the whole of Indochina.

It is to be recalled that two years ago in a vote-catching bid Nixon had pledged to "end the Viet Nam war." But up to now, this war of aggression which he claimed to be "the last war of America," far from ending, has been pushed up to an unprecedented scale of atrocity.

Moreover, it has spread to Cambodia and Laos. It is Nixon who has been driving the United States into the abyss of war, not only in Viet Nam, but in the whole of Indochina, squandering US lives and dollars, besmirching its honour, generating crises and tragedies ever unknown in US history. The proofs of Nixon's craftiness, obduracy and bellicosity are thus written in blood. How could he manage to conceal the war crimes piled up in Indochina, whose chief culprit he is?

Nixon boasted he had withdrawn a number of GIs and gave this as a piece of evidence of his "ending the US involvement in Viet Nam." *The Guardian*, baring Nixon's troop withdrawal manoeuvre as a means to prolong the war, wrote on April 13: The continued juggling of figures and braking of troop pullout would not meet the popular demand for an early cessation of the war and the nightmare it entailed. Nixon's decision to retire some GIs was prompted by his desire to reduce difficulties, and soothe the ebullient feelings of the Americans, only with a view to prolonging and enlarging the fighting. It was by no way inspired by his wish to end the war as he often ballyhooed. Harriman, former head of the US delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, had this to say: "Nixon's present policy portends a war with no end in South-East Asia" (*UPI*, March 1, 1971).

The US President's intention not to end the hostilities in Viet Nam was recognized by none other than himself when he said: "So long as the release of the POWs held by North Viet Nam has not been secured and the South Vietnamese (the Saigon regime—*Ed.*) have not been able to fully develop their capacity to defend themselves... our forces will remain there." Nixon wanted to make use of the "POW" issue to keep sending sons of America to their death for the defence of a handful of Vietnamese traitors—the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique—and the maintaining of US neo-colonialist rule over South Viet Nam. The conditions laid down by him for the "total withdrawal of US troops" boil down to prolonging indefinitely the US military occupation of South Viet Nam and to saying "no" to the pressing demand of the Vietnamese, American and world peoples for a prompt and total US withdrawal from South Viet Nam.

In his April 16 press interview, Nixon moreover threatened the continued air bombing of the DRVN territory. He went to the length of calling the Vietnamese people now engaged in a struggle against US aggression "the most barbaric people in modern history." No one is to be intimidated by this threat uttered by the C-in-C of a losing army. If the US aggressors dared to indulge in acts against the North, they would receive heavier punishment than in the past years. Nixon should remember that the will of a nation credited with successful foiling of all US war escalations so far is an unshakable one. Nixon hypocritically confided that he had spent many nights pondering: "If the US were to fail in Viet Nam, the bloodbath that would follow would be a blot on this nation's history from which we would find it very difficult to return." These were but the words of a gangster in a monk's cowl. No bloodbath has occurred in Indochina apart from the one generated by US troops' killing. For decades, the US imperialists have turned South Viet Nam into a hell on earth, millions of civilians, mostly oldagers, women and children, have been murdered or maimed by US up-to-date engines of death. US bombs and toxic chemicals have transformed Viet Nam's greenness into a dirty brown. It is US imperialism which is the most savage war criminal in modern time. If an end is to be put to these crimes which are soiling America, the US must cease its aggression, withdraw rapidly and totally its troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam. As to the future of the South Vietnamese, let's listen to what Senator McGovern said: "Whatever will happen to Viet Nam after the withdrawal of US troops does not concern us. The Vietnamese have lived there two thousand years without us. They know better than we what is good for them." (*Paris Jour*, Feb. 27, 1971).

The more Nixon speaks, the more he appears under his true colours as an over-ambitious aggressor. But he is finding himself in dire straits: on the battlefield, both US and puppet troops are sustaining repeated and heavy reverses, the doctrine bearing his name and his "Vietnamization" program are within the range of the Indochinese peoples' anti-aggression guns. In the United States, Nixon is living in the strained atmosphere of a mighty opposition from every corner resounding with "Down with Nixon" shouts, while the whole world is stigmatizing him and growing more and more and alienated from him. Gun salvoes and angry outcries are drowning Nixon's rhetoric flourishes and specious formulae. The US President's volubility is but an indication of a grave fever assailing a war maniac.

The anti-war storm...

(Continued from page 1)

paper somewhere in a tiny case of the White House. That is precisely why since the start of the US "special" and "limited" wars against Viet Nam, an anti-war movement has been gaining in scope and strength in the United States.

IT is not that Nixon does not know how to check the drive. A warlike politician and also a "sharper" at cards, Nixon has many times tried to stamp out the American people's struggle with his repressive machine and psychowar tactics. Not a few war-protesters, fighters for freedom and justice, who have fallen victims to Nixon's harsh reprisals. FBI blackmail, fascist courts, jails and deadly bullets have been used to hush up the Berrigans, Bobby Seales, Angela Davis, boy and girl students in Kent University and even Congressmen. Muzzling of the press, embargo on war news are common occurrence. Empty promises and impudent coax follow big lies. The public in the States and the world is fed up with Nixon and his band's "Khe Sanh Victory" discordant chorus.

His televised address on the night of April 7 and press conference on April 16 were to "defuse" the war-protest explosion in the USA. It is not accidental that the American magazine Look *wrote that Nixon was not only waging the war against the Indochinese peoples but also against the truth.*

HOWEVER, the American people have answered him. This anti-war Spring Offensive is a whack at his policy of aggression and at the same time at his "war against the truth." Nixon claims that he is ending American involvement in Indochina but during his 3-year term of office he has actually escalated the war and multiplied crimes.

The Americans have shouted: "We don't want your war! Peace now! Peace now!"

These are the outcries of American fathers and mothers who have lost — or do not want to lose — their sons in the unjust war, of American women who love their husbands and sons and who do not want to go into mourning for their dear ones. They mingle with the grievous and remorseful voices of those American GIs who have once pressed on the triggers against innocent Vietnamese peasants and children, of those US officers and men whose shirts are covered with ribbons and medals, but whose limbs have been left behind in the Indochinese jungles, marshes and mountains. These are the indignant shouts of American workers, students and intellectuals pinched by inflation and unemployment, of mothers and fathers, teachers, clergymen, cultural and social activists, of those personalities who are justly anxious about the future of America, who want to save a generation of young Americans poisoned by the US government's brutal war policy. "Peace now! Peace now!" are the screams of white, black and coloured Americans, Philippine, Asian, Mexican, and Puerto Rican Americans of all ages who do want to write new pages in America's history. Joining the anti-war chorus are the voices of Congressmen and politicians who have come to realize that Nixon's war policy is plunging the USA into unforeseeable disaster.

Obviously, Nixon is losing the battle on the very soil of the United States. Harsh crack down and perfidious manoeuvres are unable to dishearten the American people. Senator Muskie said that this war is wrong, that the Americans know it and want to end it. "We call for the sense of the nation. We call for the people of America," he appealed. The American masses have responded to the call of freedom and justice, to the appeal of the glorious history of the USA. The American people have acted for peace. This Spring Action will come down as a splendid exploit in America's history. It is the uprising of conscience, the illustration of bravery and determination, the deep love for peace and internationalist feelings. Big scale, broad composition and high spirits are the salient features of this drive. The participation of American veterans, active duty servicemen and many persons in political circles, and the upper strata has magnified the significance of this Spring Action. It testifies on the one hand to the steady growth of the movement and on the other to the accentuated isolation of the Nixon administration.

THE South Viet Nam people regard the contribution of the American people to the struggle for peace in Indochina as an invaluable support, a great encouragement, a coordination of the "second front" in the common fight against the US war of aggression in Indochina.

The American people's drive will give a meaningful impulse to the progressive movement in the world and to the common cause of mankind for peace. That is why in Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, Norway and other parts of the world, demonstrations, marches, rallies, have been staged in response to the American people's struggle for peace and in support to the Indochinese peoples' resistance to US aggression.

The South Viet Nam people enthusiastically acclaim the valiant struggle of the American people, and hail the echo from the world peoples to the Spring Action in the United States. We resolutely demand that the Nixon administration put an end immediately to its war of aggression in Indochina, — a war costly in lives and property and damaging the reputation of the United States. Nixon must meet at once the demands of the Vietnamese and American peoples, fix a date for the rapid withdrawal of all US troops from Indochina, renounce Thieu, Ky and Khiem and let the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos settle themselves their internal affairs. If the Nixon administration persists in prolonging the war by "Vietnamizing" it, the South Viet Nam people, the entire people of Viet Nam, shoulder to shoulder with the brother Cambodian and Lao peoples, are resolved to drive the US aggressors out of the Indochina peninsula, wrest back their independence and freedom, thereby putting an end to the disaster facing the American people.

United in their struggle, the Indochinese and American peoples will surely triumph.

SOUTH VIET NAM

On the tenth founding anniversary of the Liberation Trade-Union Federation

A SUSTAINED AND SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE

Workers in South Viet Nam liberated areas in their emulation to turn out more weapons for the front.

OVER the past ten years, under the judicious leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the guidance of the SVN Liberation Trade-Union Federation, the South Viet Nam workers and labouring people have been continuously enhancing their unity, indomitability and stamina and proving equal to their vanguard role on the front against US aggression. They have been keeping up their ffght, shoulder to shoulder with the peasants and in close co-ordination with the pupils, students, Buddhist believers, in a broad front against the US-puppets, thereby contributing a due share to the great victory of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people.

The workers and labouring people have been militant not only in some towns or enterprises, but in all cities, factories, airfields, plantations and US-Saigon war undertakings.

In the process of the struggle, the workers' movement has been expanding its scope and its activities, while its ranks have been swelling and strengthening.

Holding aloft such slogans as better living conditions, democracy, national independence, then clear-cut political watchwords, the South Viet Nam workers and labouring people have staged tens of thousands of actions involving millions of attendants, including mammoth ones like that of November 2, 1963 with nearly one million participants, mostly workers and labouring people, the general strike in September 1964 of 200,000 Saigon-Cholon workers and labouring people which brought to a halt many major activities, the strike from June to December 1966 of 42,000 workers of the RMK-BRJ Company and the protests in the rubber plantations of Dau Tieng, Cau Khoi which lasted up to one year—all these testified to their stubborn and staunch fighting spirit.

The dramatic generalized offensives by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in early Spring 1968 gave a new impulse to the movement of the workers and labouring people.

Now it is directed against the military bases, airfields, ports, storage depots, strategic roads... The walk-out of the workers at the oil-companies Stanvac, Shell and Caltex impede the supply of petrol and oil to US planes; that of the workers at the telecommunications paralysed the telephone lines in Saigon-Cholon and the provinces for 20 hours; those of the workers at the RMK-BRJ Company many a time hampered the building of enemy military works. Typical of these was the month-long action started on October 26, 1970 by 20,000 workers in the latter company which closed down 30 construction sites in Saigon, Bien Hoa, Gia Dinh, Phuoc Tuy and Vung Tau.

In their battle against austerity tax, price hike and for better living standard, democracy, peace, withdrawal of US troops, and replacement of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration, they also have put forward claims on behalf of the other social sections in the cities and come out against Nixon's "Vietnamization" aimed at throwing into the streets masses of workers and impoverishing the toiling people to drive them into the Saigon army.

Concurrently, the workers and labouring people in enterprises have also put up a vigorous fight to defend themselves with arms in hand, punish cruel agents and break the grip imposed upon them. Since the beginning of Spring 1968, the South Viet Nam cities have become a battlefield for guerilla warfare, harassing the US-puppet rear.

The movement has been *drawing more and more workers and labouring people into a broad front*, rallying workers from various trades, in the cities and the plantations and taking place in many localities at times, which has forced the enemy to meet the workers' demands. The strikes of the workers at Vinatexco, Vimytex, RMK-BRJ Company, Lambretta and bus companies, Saigon-Cholon and Da Nang ports... were encouraged and supported by many Trade Unions in Saigon-Cholon, Da Nang, the provinces and rubber plantations who also downed tools and compelled the Americans and capitalist bosses to satisfy the workers' claims.

Remarkable has been the close co-ordination between the workers and toiling people's drive and the peasants' movement in the suburban area. The former have been supporting the latter's resistance to enemy bombardment, "mopping up" operations, spraying of toxic chemicals against crops, indiscriminate strafing, and their claim for damages for their losses in lives and property.

Such co-ordination has enlisted the participation of various segments of the townsfolk, pupils, students, Buddhist believers, war invalids, political organizations and even Saigon servicemen and policemen. Thanks to this solidarity the workers and labouring people's movement has been able to score success after success. Along with the steady growth of this protest movement in the occupied areas, the Trade Unions in the liberated zone has also been keeping pace with the revolution.

CONTINUING and promoting the fine traditional devotion to the Resistance War against the French colonialists, the workers in the liberated zone have realized great achievements with almost bare hand in national defence factories, arms workshops, printing houses, tailoring establishments, laboratories, drugs factories... and have answered the increasing needs of the Resistance War. Here they do not face the aggressors but have to grapple with countless difficulties, sometimes at the risk of their lives, under enemy bombing to gain time and produce weapons, munitions, clothes, medicines for the armymen at the front, the cadres and people in the rear, thereby doing their bits in checking US aggression.

In production and combat, the workers in the liberated zone, have clearly realized the relationship between the struggle for national independence and that for their own rights. That is why, besides the fighting and production, they have closely co-ordinated their actions with the movements in the cities, particularly with their counterparts in the enemy-occupied zone, continuously, encouraged and supported their drives which in turn have greatly stimulated their own production emulation movements.

The success of the South Viet Nam workers are inseparable from the sympathy and support of the world trade-union organizations and the workers and labouring people on the five continents.

The co-ordinated actions of the Japanese, Australian, American, New Zealand workers refusing to load weapons and war materials for Viet Nam, condemnation of the US imperialists' aggressive war, collections of money and medicines by the workers in the socialist countries, in North and West Europe, and the big strikes of American workers for an end to the war and repatriation of the GI's have been so many important contributions to the struggle against US aggression waged by the workers and labouring people of South Viet Nam.

THE clash between the working class and toiling people in the cities and the US-puppet reactionary forces have brought out the invincible strength of those who operate inside the important apparatuses of the enemy major positions, of those who are class-conscious, united and able to achieve this unity in the struggle against the common enemy.

On the historic May Day and the founding anniversary of the Liberation Trade-Union Federation, the workers and toiling people of South Viet Nam, looking back at the path they have traversed, realize the significance of their struggle and their contribution to their people's common effort and from it they draw pride, enthusiasm and readiness to forge ahead to the final victory of the resistance war against US aggression.

TRAN BACH

VIET NAM VETERANS SAY:

For each civilian killed a three-day pass

TEN former servicemen in Viet Nam told an audience of about a thousand people in South Orange on March 15 that they had witnessed, or participated in, the maiming or murder of Vietnamese civilians by American soldiers.

Those testimonies were part and parcel of a campaign launched by former GIs against the war in Viet Nam.

They said in particular that they had driven trucks over villagers and shot pregnant women and old-aged persons to get "three-day passes."

They showed copies of their demobilization papers and citations.

Michael Hunter wearing three medals, whose father is a colonel, stated: "I killed a 68-year-old civilian who was gathering ananas. I got a three-day leave.

"If we killed Vietnamese, we got a leave. We collected ears to show we had killed people."

Richard Warren, who had received several medals for "bravery" in the Da Nang sector, revealed: "I shot two young Vietnamese. Nothing proved they were enemy soldiers."

A member of a squad, John McGuiness, related: "One of us asked a pregnant Vietnamese where was her husband... When she burst into tears and said 'I don't know,' the GI fired five or six shots, killed her and her son who was with her."

From **La Voix Ouvrière**
March 17, 1971

First anniversary of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference :

ONE REMARKABLE YEAR

SINCE early 1970, the US and quislings have been faced with very thorny problems : all their defence system in South Viet Nam has been shaken to its root ; all their defensive methods have been bankrupt, developments on the South Viet Nam battlefield have upset all the calculations of the Pentagon and four-star General Abrams ; the "pacification" program has met with many a hitch: after its failure, "accelerated pacifcation" was supplemented by "special pacification" and "developed pacification," etc. But, clearly enough, the immense countryside, and even the urban centres and enemy-controlled areas have been in a "permanent state of insecurity." Nixon is forced to pull out his troops at. a moment when the puppet army is "too weak" and "too deficient." "Improvement of the situation requires time, but time is running out. The threat is looming large, the danger is great and the setbacks can be a piteous and unbearable one" (*The Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 10, 1970).

This situation has led to the inevitable failure of Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy. However, diehard and bellicose, Nixon has embarked headlong into a new venturesome game, that of expanding the war all over Indochina.

The US imperialists masterminded the overthrow of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk ; they directly sabotaged the neutrality of Cambodia, invaded her by force of arms, mounted the encroachment on the Lao liberated areas with Vang Pao's task forces supported by the US air force and recently egged on the Saigon quislings to undertake a brazen incursion into Southern Laos under US air and artillery cover.

With their long tradition of unity and unyielding resistance against foreign aggression, and in the light of the historic joint declaration of the Indochinese peoples' summit, the three peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos met force with due force and with overwhelming and widespread success.

In South Viet Nam, keeping the initiative, the South Vietnamese struck unremittingly at the enemy, wiping out an important part of their manpower, war materials.

Parallel to their onsets on the enemy's rear—towns and cities—the PLAF hit unrelentingly at them in such hilly areas as west of Tri Thien, Hue, the Western High Plateaux, and eastern Nam Bo, Song Mao ; there, important adverse units were heavily depleted and encircled so tightly that such positions as Coc Bai, Da Ban, Hill 935 had to be evacuated ; many airfields, ammunition depots, harbours, were assaulted and big quantities of war materials destroyed in Saigon, Da Nang, Cam Ranh, Qui Nhon, Binh Dinh. Most devastating were the recent strikes at the puppet general reserve forces on the Highway 9 front, at Khe Sanh, Sa Doc (Mary Ann), on Hill 1001 (the puppet fire-base No 6) and at enemy logistic bases. Guerilla warfare continued to expand even in big towns. In the plains, in "key pacification areas," despite the fierceness of enemy's operations to pen up the inhabitants, to "pacify" the countryside and stem the PLAF attacks, popular offensives and concerted uprisings took place, vigorously and relentlessly. Many sub-sectors, "strategic hamlets," "concentration camps," and hundreds of "pacification" teams and quisling administrations in the countryside were wiped out. The successes achieved by the South Vietnamese in the past 12 months clearly showed that everywhere in South Viet Nam, the PLAF constantly held the initiave, repelled all "sweeps" and put out of action great numbers of enemy forces and big quantities of war materials.

In South Viet Nam the inhabitants initially foiled "Vietnamization," landing this strategic policy in a quandary.

Despite the US efforts to put the puppet troops on their feet so that they could assume their strategic task on the battlefield, realities spelled out that they were disorganized troops fighting without motivation, and consequently took heavy casualties at the hands of the PLAF ; on their part, though withdrawn to the rear to shorten their casualty list, the GIs had, in face of the predicament of their "allies," to jump in to rescue them ; thus their losses could not be curtailed as they wished. Of over 400,000 enemy troops put out of action in the last 12 months, the GIs accounted for one quarter (these figures were respectively 7,000 and 4,054 in two months' fighting on the Khe Sanh front alone). The "pacification" program many times changed names and methods which grew in cruelty and viciousness, yet, according to the American press, the results were poor and the figure of "pacified" villages very doubtful. The South Vietnamese resisted the sway of the enemy in the areas under their occupation, causing it to shrink. In the countryside, the movement to get free to do farming or to return to the liberated zone was unchecked while in urban centres the inhabitants militated more and more vigorously against the US-Saigon authorities and for the withdrawal of US troops and the removal of the Thieu - Ky - Khiem trio.

In Cambodia, the national liberation armed forces grew very rapidly and attacked the enemy unremittingly, driving them in a great morass.

After the coup against Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, a mass movement against the US and quislings, along with the guerilla warfare ebulliently spread all over Cambodia.

When under the pretext of "striking at communist sanctuaries," the US and Saigon troops invaded that country to avoid the collapse of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique, this movement came to a head, the liberation armed forces expanded more powerfully in the flush of their successes. As tens of thousands of US and Saigon invaders were wiped out and a big quantity of war materials destroyed within one month, the aggression fizzled out.

In Phnom Penh, the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak regime was in dire straits. National Road No 4, Cambodia's main line of communication with the outside world, was cut off. Nearly 40,000 Saigon soldiers were forced to stay behind to prop up the Phnom Penh regime while, under Congressional pressure, Nixon had to withdraw US troops from Cambodia. Though operating under heavy US air cover, the Saigon army was badly battered and found itself in a cleft stick. Nearly 70,000 US and Saigon troops put out of action, over 900 aircraft downed, and 5,000 military vehicles, mostly armour, destroyed, such were the severe toll of the enemy. The Phnom Penh army, built up and equipped with American weaponry and backed by the US and Saigon quislings, licked the dust on all battlefields. Though bolstered up by the US, the Lon Nol troops proved unable to weather the revolutionary storm. Seventenths of Cambodia's territory including 5 provinces, were entirely liberated and over 4 million people lived under the protection of the Royal Government of National Unity of Cambodia. The National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk developed unceasingly. The revolutionary movement made big strides forward. The substantial successes won recently against the Saigon troops in "Operation Total Victory 1-71" opened up bright prospects for the heroic Cambodian army and people.

In Laos, after one year of fruitful fighting against the US imperialists in their war escalation the Lao people recaptured extensive regions and liberated other important strategic areas.

The areas controlled by the Lao Patriotic Front, representing two-thirds of the national territory and inhabited by half of the total population, have been long since coveted by the US imperialists and their Vientiane placemen. But the Lao people repelled the encroaching attacks launched against the Plain of Jars (Xieng Khoang area) by the "special forces" of the Vang Pao bandits, stood up to the strikes of American aircraft including B.52 strategic bombers (dropping on the average 3,000 tons of bombs daily in the closing months of 1970) and foiled the large-scale invasion early this year by the Saigon troops with US air support. Through those trials the liberated areas have experienced a powerful growth.

Whereas in the past 12 months, the US imperialists and their henchmen pushed their intervention and armed aggression to a height, the heroic Lao armed forces and people also brought into play all their potentialities and thwarted all their war escalations. 39,000 enemy troops put out of action, nearly 1,000 military vehicles destroyed, 700 aircraft shot down on the Lao battlefield in the last 12 months since April 1970, were significant figures.

In the Plain of Jars (Xieng Khoang area) Operation "Kou Kiet" the biggest ever mounted by the enemy, was fought back, and 50 adverse battalions were ousted from that region ; the Muong Sui strategic area was occupied by the liberation forces and Vang Pao's "special forces" CP at Sam Thong-Long Cheng was beleaguered. In

(*Continued on page 6*)

PLAF fighters in hot pursuit of the enemy

No Attacks on War-Resister GIs

The South Viet Nam PLAF Command made public on April 26, 1971 an ORDER by which it declared to refrain from attacking those GIs in South Viet Nam who resist the US war of aggression.

Hereunder is the full text of that ORDER.—Ed.

SINCE he took office, President Nixon has made every effort to carry out his "Vietnamization" plan with a view to prolonging the war of aggression in Viet Nam. He has intensified and expanded it to the Indochinese peninsula, piling up new crimes against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, and causing to the United States further useless losses in terms of lives and property.

For the true interests and honour of the United States, and loyal to justice-and freedom-loving traditions, many political figures and the broad masses of the American people, including US servicemen who have come home from Viet Nam, have opposed the war policy of the Nixon administration and demanded an immediate withdrawal of all US troops. Many US servicemen still in South Viet Nam have also urged the Nixon administration to stop the war. They have opposed orders of the US commanders, and demanded an immediate withdrawal of the US troops.

In keeping with the Vietnamese people's long-standing tradition of humanitarianism, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have stated on repeated occasions that its policy is to welcome the anti-war US servicemen and to give a humane treatment to the US servicemen captured or wounded on the battlefield.

In the present situation and pursuant to this policy, the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces orders :

1. Not to attack those anti-war US servicemen — individuals or groups — who demand repatriation, oppose orders of the US commanders, and refrain from hostile actions against the People's Liberation Armed Forces, from supporting or coming to the rescue of the Saigon army, encroaching on the freedom, property and lives of the South Vietnamese people, interfering with their internal affairs, hindering their struggle against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique.

2. To give a proper treatment to those US servicemen — individuals or groups — who in action refrain from opposing the People's Liberation Armed Forces, and those who carry with them anti-war literature.

3. To stand ready to extend aid and protection to those anti-war US servicemen who have to run away for their opposition to orders of operations, to harsh discipline and to the discriminatory policy in the army.

4. To welcome and give good treatment to those US servicemen who cross over to the South Viet Nam people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces ; to stand ready to help them go home or seek asylum in another country if requested by them.

5. To welcome and to grant appropriate rewards to those US servicemen — individuals or groups — who support the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces calls on the officers and men in all services of the US Army in South Viet Nam to do their best to demand their repatriation, to refuse to go submissively to a useless death in the unjust war in Viet Nam and Indochina, to try by every means to enter into contact with, and to inform, the South Viet Nam people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces of their anti-war actions in order to receive assistance.

The People's Liberation Armed Forces must seriously carry out this Order while constantly enhancing their vigilance and meting out exemplary punishment to those who continue stubbornly to follow the US imperialists in opposing the Vietnamese people.

South Viet Nam, April 26, 1971.

SPRING

(*Concluded*)

"LET me join up, please!" said Chinh to her mother.

"Don't you have to tight them here too?"

"I'll be back with liberation armymen to deal with them better."

Chinh could not leave yet. Every night, a rifle on her shoulder, she would set out, together with her team mates, to encircle the adverse garrison in the village. With spectacles on the ridge of his nose, Uncle Hai Ngang worked labouriously on a wooden frame, forgetting even meal time. Finally the frame — on which guerillas would lean their rifles — was ready and put upright close to the market-place on a pitch-dark night, under the first downpour of the monsoon. That was a bit done by Chinh's whole hamlet and she herself had the honour to fire the first shot.

The Americans stationed at the township supplied district chief Phong with money and a whole company of native troops. The grandfather of Ha, a member of Chinh's three-girl team, kept asking how many men exactly a company consisted of. Assessing the situation and the number of guerillas involved in the fighting henceforth, from the gun reports she heard, Chinh's mother decided to raise more chickens to provide them more food than she had done so far. Coming from afar, the enemy rained hundreds of bombs and thousands of bullets to break the stranglehold around the garrison. Our fighters loosened their noose and then tightened it again.

More than ever Ching insisted on going into the army. But, unlike before, she now felt that this dream of hers was identified with her native place. With the stream she used to ford on the way home from night ambushes — and each time she was under the impression that her legs had lengthened. With the rows of sugar-canes on the roadside so thick that one could dig as many combat trenches as one wanted without being detected by the enemy. With the little market-place where district chief Phong installed his biggest barracks which, though desolate, seemed, whenever she looked at it, blazing and crowded with soldiers running away helter-skelter from devastating flames.

Liberation troops returned to blot out Phong's garrison ; or so people thought. Chinh met Uncle Hai Ngang on the edge of the village, a two-string violin in one hand and a bunch of iron-tipped pikes in the other. He shouted to her :

"Where are you going? Haven't you seen our boys building a bridge?"

"Are they, uncle?" asked Chinh, surprised.

She rushed straight home. Liberation troops! As though spellbound by these magic words, she could hardly walk. At a point she was unable to elbow her way through. She bumped either against liberation soldiers and their weapons or tripped into combat trenches. Lost in the crowd, she made out the loud, distinct voice of Hai Ngang urging armymen to take their food and that of her mother hurrying women to get tea ready for them. Ha's grandfather stammered out questions about a gun he was gazing at admiringly while little boys and girls roared with laughter nearby. With those sounds as familiar to her as the hamlet lanes, the night scene looked like the spectacle of a festive day.

Together with Ha, Chinh ran to Nga's, her friend's hand in her own. They found Nga in the kitchen preparing a decoction of medicinal herbs for herself.

"How can I take it?" Nga wondered.

"Drink it, we'll share it with you." Nga gulped down a bowlful of the decoction and felt her tummy ache gone.

All the three went out spoiling for a fight. At the gate they heard volleys of shots near district chief Phong's garrison. Other salvoes followed, almost without interruption. The trench in which they took up position had hardly been warmed up with human heat when cheers rose from the market place. The barracks were razed. All was over. Chinh's ears were still buzzing. All that unfolded so quickly that out of joy she wasn't aware where she was rushing.

The liberation troops stayed on the next day for an attack on adverse reinforcements. Chinh's mates and herself acted as messengers. As fighting raged on, shell splinters whizzed over her head and fell on Ha's knees, mixed with tree leaves. So far the girl team leader had taken part in revolutionary actions by joining in actions against enemy ruffians with wooden rifles, in demonstrations at the provincial city where she went by motor boats decorated with flags and banners, or by guiding liberation troops in their operations against military positions at Rach Dau and other places. For the first time she was involved in large-scale onsets at "our side," as she said proudly on an area stretching from the district market down to the other end of her village. For the first time she saw with her own eyes and indescribable pleasure an American plane crashing in three pieces on the stream bank. It fell on the right place, she said to herself, for it was there that aircraft had often nosedived to drop bombs.

More than an adverse battalion was knocked down. Disctrict chief Phong and two of his men, all three in short, took to their heels into the township. By midnight, the three girls went home after helping liberation troops cross the stream. When Chinh stepped on something unsually soft, her friends startled and cocked their rifles. It was a bit of the body of the downed pilot, which they dreaded more than the cluster of bombs he had let down. They walked over corpses without realizing it. With kerosene lamps people were searching for cartridges and parachutes. Over their cups of tea, others talked of filling bomb craters, of repairing their houses, the district market and school.

"What? Children learning at the district school?" Nga asked with surprise.

"Don't you know the whole district town has been liberated?" Ha said.

Each of the three guerillas had her own feeling after the battle. How nice teaching the children folk dances, said Nga to herself. Ha always unafraid of bombs, continued to dread that hit planes might fall on her head. As to Chinh, she resented being a girl in the present situation.

The stone road skirting the village, which dark glasses-wearing civil guards used to patrol in motorcyclecab, was no more than a small yet pretty path winding through ditches dug to halt the enemy advance, only women going to market now took it. One morning Uncle Hai Ngang cycled home from the district town through this lane. He alighted, leaned his bike against the iron fence of the combat village and held up a newspaper.

"Is Chinh at home?" he enquired. "Come along and see sunk amphibious cars..."

It had become a routine that whenever Hai Ngang said so, he meant that the liberation forces had won a great success. In a jiffy people pressed around him. He related the good tidings : an entire enemy battalion—about five hundred soldiers—knocked out at Long An, over fifty aircraft destroyed on the ground at Bien Hoa, scores of American troops killed in Saigon and hundreds at Binh Gia...

In such impromptu gatherings to hear Hai Ngang broadcast news of victories or play his two-string instrument, one seldom saw Chinh and her team mates. After the liberation of ten or so neighbouring villages the latter left their own to seek out adverse troops far away. In the day-time children would assemble and sing "The Yanks, those bugs..." while sharpening spikes for booby-traps. The hamlet would be all in a bustle whenever the population heard of military successes or liberation troops happened to pass by. One day helicopters whirred in and struck at several places. No sooner had the raid ended than the villagers went about their jobs again, some thinking of rearing fish in their ponds, others of a netting trip on the Ngang canal ; others again of collecting an AA gun for the local guerillas, since everything was to be defended, from school children to chickens which had survived enemy incursions.

One morning Chinh stepped into Hai Ngang's hut as he was eating lunch.

"I've come to say good bye, Uncle," she said. "I'm joining up."

Taking off his spectacles, the old man asked :

"Anyone else?"

"Ba Nga, Tam To and others, all of them members of the guerilla. Other boys and girls will replace them."

"The Yankees are in a bad fix," Hai Ngang went on. "The moment has come to deal them a finishes."

It was the third day of Tet. People rode to and fro on bicycles of different colours. Slogans were hung over the cross-road calling on everyone to do their bit for the final victory. A breeze blew on the sand path, spreading the smell of dishes being prepared by busy women clad in white, whom one could make out from outside their kitchens. Ventilating shafts of underground shelters were being repaired, and down there children sang at the top of their voices.

The guerillas gave a send-off to the volunteers with a unicorn dance. Nga and Ha went with Chinh up to the hamlet school. Ba Nghe had put out on his guerilla uniform — black trousers tied over the ankles and a two-pocket shirt — and a regular's basket helmet camouflaged in a piece of parachute cloth. Everyone looked at him and then at Nga and burst into laughter.

Nga bent her head over Chinh's shoulder, murmuring :

"Write to me tomorrow, love."

Fresh peels of laughter rang, followed by the drum beats of the unicorn procession.

Looking at the boys and girls, Hai Ngang lifted his voice, sounding very important :

"Now as regulars, you shall no longer behave like snipers as you have done here at home. When you're ordered to charge, you should spring forward, do you hear me? You're going to be like chessmen in the opponent's camp, so strive to checkmate him."

(*Continued on page 6*)

VIET NAM ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL, DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES' 3rd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

THE Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces solemnly commemorated on April 18, 1971 its 3rd founding anniversary (April 20, 1968) in a liberated area of South Viet Nam.

The ceremony was attended by large numbers of delegates from the anti-US frontlines in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam. Among them were members of the Alliance Central Committee, a delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee, a delegation of the Saigon - Cholon - Gia Dinh Alliance Committee, many prominent personalities, intellectuals, pressmen, traders and industrialists from Saigon, and delegates of various mass organizations and liberation armed forces in the liberated areas.

Dr Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the VNANDPF Central Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, delivered a speech.

After outlining the glorious achievements of the South Vietnamese army and people in the fight against the US imperialists for national salvation, the VNANDPF leader commended the outstanding record of Alliance Committees of various levels who in the past three years had been drawing an ever larger number of members and ever broader sections of the urban population, and closing their ranks in the fight against the US and Thieu-Ky-Khiem.

The Alliance's Chairman also bared the current vicious scheme of the US and quislings to speed up impress and fascist measures in pursuance of their aggressive war in South Viet Nam.

"The main men responsible for these calamities," he said, "are none other than the US imperialist aggressors and a handful of their stooges — the Thieu - Ky - Khiem trio—and the consequences of "Vietnamization." There is no other way than to rise up to a man against the US and its agents under these most appealing slogans: peace, independence, neutrality, people's welfare and democracy."

The VNANDPF leader called on the youth, students, working people, workers, journalists, writers and religious believers to unite ever more closely and push up the resistance against the US aggressors and the Saigon administration. "In furtherance of its political programme," he said, "the Alliance favours rallying ever more political and religious forces, and people of all walks of life, irrespective of their political tendencies, and regardless of their past record, provided they are for peace, independence and neutrality. With the 'Fatherland Above All' spirit, the VNANDPF is ready to join hands and co-ordinate actions with all those who have at heart the Fatherland's destiny and peace for their people, for their country, and freedom, independence and sovereingty for their nation."

"The only way which can help liberate ourselves and our Fatherland," Dr Trinh Dinh Thao concluded, "is to act courageously, unite broadly within the united front against the US-quislings."

All the participants in the meeting then gave a standing ovation to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee when he mounted the rostrum to read the Front's message of greeting.

The NFL leader especially hailed the steady growth of the patriotic movement of broad sections of the people in the South Viet Nam cities and the expansion of the VNANDPF and its splendid accomplishments in the past three years as a glorious contribution to the entire people's fierce fight against US "Vietnamization" and ever bigger successes.

Similar speeches were later delivered by a number of delegates of the Alliance Committees in various localities.

The celebrations wound up with the songs "Liberation of South Viet Nam," and "The Voice of Mountains and Rivers."

ONE REMARKABLE YEAR

(*Continued from page 5*)

Southern Laos, the remaining areas held by the enemy including the capital cities of the provinces of Attopeu and Saravane were liberated. Beginning the 1970 dry season, the Lao people expanded their territory in Northern Laos, thus linking into a single stretch the liberated areas from North to South of the country. Early in 1971, after 43 days of a heroic battle, the Lao liberation army, in close co-ordination with the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces on the Khe Sanh front, clobbered the US and Saigon troops invading Southern Laos in Operation "Lam Son 719," and won a historic victory: 15,400 US and Saigon troops put out of action. All the strategy and tactics applied by the enemy in this operation were baffled. Following up their gains, the Lao people liberated the strategic position at Ban Na and threatened Luang Prabang and Vientiane. The Highway 9 feats were of paramount military and political significance, and had a far-reaching impact on the general turn of the war of resistance of the Indochinese peoples.

DEVELOPMENTS on the Indochina battlefield in the past 12 months have brought out in strong relief the following points:

— The more the enemy expanded the war all over Indochina, the deeper they got bogged down in the morass and the heavier were their setbacks.

In extending the war to the whole of Indochina, the US imperialists turned this region into a single battlefield. While their forces were spread thin, the revolutionary armed forces were brought together into a monolithic bloc, and placed in a better position to destroy more enemy's manpower and war materials and the Indochinese peoples united more closely in a front against the common enemy.

Bound up with one another, the revolutionary peoples of the three countries quickly grew to maturity, thereby their stamina was increased, and a new battle array created, pregnant with greater successes for the revolution in the three Indochinese countries.

— Nixon's scheme of aggression and obduracy had a more serious sequel than during his war escalation and expansion.

In spite of his reverses and difficulties, Nixon stubbornly clung to his colonialist aggressor's positions. Forced to pull out US troops, he still hoped that the Saigon army would become stronger and the South Viet Nam PLAF weaker. This day-dream of his was shattered by the hard facts on the battlefield.

However, he was rash enough to expand the war, thus compounding his difficulties. Though the Saigon army could not fulfil its strategic mission on its own battlefield (South Viet Nam), yet it was forced to serve as mainstay for the US agents in Cambodia and Laos. That is why despite the fact that it had been painstakingly trained by the Americans who pinned all hopes on it to implement Nixon's neo-colonialism, it was trounced everywhere and driven from pillar to post.

— US casualties and war expenditure proportionate to US war expansion.

To soothe the angry American public impatient of the prolongation and extension of the war, Nixon tried to hush up the truth while instructing Abrams to seek all possible means to reduce American casualties to an acceptable level and curtail the war spendings. However, to this effect, Nixon gave the green light to expand the war throughout Indochina, the logical outcome of which would lead to higher war cost and heavier casualties. For this reason, though Nixon was forced to limit the involvement of US infantrymen in such military operations as the drive into Southern Laos, US losses were very serious. The 4,000 GIs put out of action on Highway 9 when Operation "Lam Son 719" was in progress was a significant figure.

The 15 million dollars squandered everyday in the Southern Laos venture was not a trifle. As the war dragged on the list of American casualties and POWs lengthened and the war expenditures sharply rose.

Even many American pressmen took Nixon to task, saying that his intention was "not termination of the aggression but scaling down as much as possible the direct participation of US ground forces in operations that have been swelling the American casualty lists for years."

It is clear that last year Nixon was faced not only with the difficulties resulting from his military setbacks in Indochina but also with those created by his obdurate policy of aggression, thus spawning further problems for the US in this costly war.

He spoke of ending the war, but was in fact expanding and prolonging it; he wished to win a military victory but was mired down more deeply in the bog; he wanted to gain a position of strength but got more and more emasculated. The advances in the past 12 months of the three Indochinese peoples corroborated the following truth for US imperialism: *the more obdurate it is, the heavier failures it sustains*, and this truism for the three Indochinese peoples fighting against US aggression: **the more united they are, the stronger they will be and the greater their successes.**

THANH HONG

SPRING

(*Continued from page 5*)

Chinh chuckled. As she stood, one strap of her pack on her shoulder, a large palm-leaf hat on her head, she saw in her mind's eye the two newly distributed *cong* * of land her mother would put under beans and tobacco in rotation. Like that the watering would not be too hard a job for her. Her younger brother Binh would no longer need her for his bath. Nga would take her place as team leader. She would stay behind against her own wish, for the fighting was to last long. Her grandfather, uncle Hai Ngang, village militia commander Viet, the grey *Mas* revolver, the ambush road, the oft-bombed stream, the rows of sugar-canes near the former emplacement of the "strategic hamlet," all that — and everyone, everything she was to leave behind at this moment —, by turns, flashed through Chinh's mind. She couldn't take the whole hamlet with her, could she?

Her mother fastened two *banh tet* ** to her rucksack. Turning to Hai Ngang the woman said:

"Now she no longer resent my not making her a boy. Come, she's weeping."

And looking at her daughter with ineffable affection, she told her:

"You used to say that because you loved our hamlet you wanted to join the army. Now that it is liberated and no longer needs you, why should you go?"

Chinh slightly bowed her head to say farewell to her native place. Drum beats of the unicorn procession resounded again. The new recruits set out. Uncle Hai Ngang seemed to hear gun booming from a distant battleground.

NGUYEN THI

* *The* cong *equals one-tenth of a hectare.*
** *Cylindrical sticky rice cake prepared for Tet festival.*

Latin America opposes imperialism

IN three months since it took power, the **Chilean** Popular Alliance Government has nationalized almost all the copper, iron and coal mines and the salpetre and weaving factories of American monopoly in Chile. It has also ordered the native landlords to sell to the State 350 estates covering 1,500,000 hectares of land. On the other hand, it has made overwhelming gains in the election for cantonal councils on April 4 last.

— From Feb. 1 to March 18, 1971 the workers at Cordoba, **Argentina**, went on strike 6 times in protest against the pro-US rulers reactionary economic and social policy. A general strike for a wage lift was staged on March 2 by the whole personnel of various universities in Argentina and on March 31 by 300,000 teachers throughout the country. Rallies and demonstrations were held by students in many cities against the US and the governments' reactionary education policy. On March 28 and 30, armed organizations laid mines at the premises of 11 US and UK companies in Buenos-Aires. They also mounted a raid on the TV station at Cordoba and issued an appeal to the local people to rise up against the new military dictatorship in Argentina.

— Tens of thousands of **Venezuelan** workers at the banana plantations of the US Nelson Rockefeller Company walked out for a wage increase and better working conditions.

— On March 11, students of the San Juan University (**Puerto Rico**) demonstrated and occupied the American ROTC in protest against the US colonial regime.

— In **Uruguay** on Feb. 5 a United Front of Progressive Forces was set up with a manifesto underlining the necessity of the struggle to achieve a really progressive and radically renovated Uruguay.

— On March 19, the Foreign Ministers of **Chile, Peru** and **Ecuador** signed a joint statement affirming their resolve to unite and fight against the USA in defence of their 200-mile territorial waters.

Ecuadoran students ransacked the US Embassy in Quito. From Jan. 11 to March 3, Ecuador seized US fishing boats 25 times. On Jan. 29 and March 30, the Mexican and Peruvian navies also seized US fishing boats that violated their respective territorial waters.

— On March 18, the **Bolivian** government nationalized a number of tin mines exploited by a private firm which held a monopoly since 18 years. The President of Bolivia cabled a protest to Nixon on US dumping of the world tin market, which was detrimental to Bolivian interest (the proceeds of tin export accounted for 60 per cent of the income in Bolivia's budget).

— At the session of the "**Special Committee on Negotiation**" held in Uruguay at the end of March 1971, delegates of 22 Latin American countries unanimously endorsed a document sternly denouncing the US predatory trade policy toward Latin America. A number of Latin American delegations stressed that the most important result of this session was the absolute unity of the countries in this area against the United States, *Reuter* reported.

IN BRIEF * IN BRIEF

— E. Nimeri, President of the Sudanese Revolutionary Government Council recently paid tribute to the three Indochinese peoples' Highway number 9 brilliant victories. "Nobody now," he stated, "still believes that the US is so strong that one cannot successfully resist it."

— In the first 3 months of 1971, in the German Democratic Republic more than 10 million marks was collected for the Indochinese peoples. Of the sum, 2 million marks were to go to the Lao people. Mass organizations in the GDR have planned to collect 30 million marks in 1971 for Viet Nam.

— The Peace Committee for National and International Understanding in West Berlin in a ceremony held on March 24, handed 100,000 marks to the two delegates of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation visiting West Berlin. A total of 30 million marks has so far been collected by this organization for Viet Nam.

— The "Solidarity with Viet Nam" Week beginning April 19 was spiritedly observed in Norway. The "V.N - 70" Movement has shipped the first batch of medicines worth 85,000 kroners for the South Vietnamese people. The Norwegian Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam has circulated 50,000 books to get money for Viet Nam. It has published tens of thousands of leaflets and posters calling for active and practical support to the South Vietnamese people.

— More than 10,000 Copenhagenese staged on March 27 a big demonstration sponsored by 51 Danish political and mass organizations against US obdurate prolongation of the aggressive war in Indochina.

— 40 mass organizations in France have launched a drive to gather signatures in support of the US peace forces struggling against US aggression in Indochina. The signatures will be sent to the US Congress early next May.

— 600 delegates of American and Canadian women organizations met in Toronto and Vancouver (Canada) from April 7 to 11 to discuss co-ordinated actions between women of the two countries for an end to the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

OKINAWA
TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE!

OKINAWA, A BASE AGAINST ASIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

WITH a system of 117 military bases, nearly one half of the US military bases in Japan, Okinawa has become the biggest American nuclear rocket base in the Far East, and a base for repression of the Asian national liberation movement. As a depot of US poisons and toxic gases in the Pacific, Okinawa has been posing a constant threat to peace in that area of the world.

Since 1965, Okinawa and Japan have been turned into the most important logistic base for the US in its Viet Nam war. It is precisely from Okinawa that US aircraft have been daily taking off to strife and bomb Vietnamese villages. According to statistics of the Japanese Peace Committee, the Japanese reactionary authorities have actually supplied the US with 92 per cent of the total quantity of napalm bombs used in South Viet Nam, with more than one million machine-guns, a big amount of barbed wire, military vehicles and other war means and materials. An article in the magazine *Political and Social Affairs* by Petrov revealed that in 1968, the value of arms and ammunition and other military equipment furnished by Japan to American troops (in the aggressive war in Viet Nam) as well as the repair charges for US implements went up to the record figure of 595.5 million dollars, 16 per cent more than in the previous year. The amount has been on the increase. In the first quarter of 1969 alone, the quantity of military supplies topped by 12 per cent that in the same period of the previous year.

THE US SCHEMES TO OCCUPY OKINAWA INDEFINITELY

UP to now, nobody has had any illusion about the US trick to "restore Okinawa administratively to Japan by 1972." Everyone is aware that the US scheme to occupy Okinawa indefinitely was part of the military collusion between the US imperialists and the Japanese militarists. Under such a design, Japan is to be a shock army for the US in the realization of the "Nixon doctrine" to play off Asians against Asians, and at the same time in the carrying out of their expansionist and aggressive scheme in that part of the world. The US president regards Japan as "the key to the victory of the Nixon doctrine on Asia." Inversely, the reactionary Japanese authorities consider the new US Asian policy "consistent with the Japanese interests." Sato has agreed to indefinitely extend the "Japan-US Security Treaty" (which is but a treaty of military aggression), voiced his readiness to share the US burden so as to "stabilize the Asian situation," and undertaken to increase military aid to South Korea, the Phnom Penh regime and other quislings of the US in that region. The Japanese authorities have thus deliberately tied themselves to the US war chariot in Asia.

SUSTAINED FIGHT FOR THE RECOVERY OF OKINAWA

SINCE the US imperialists have schemed to turn Okinawa into a preserve of the Pentagon, people in that city and throughout Japan have constantly been protesting and demanding its return to Japan. Better than anyone else, the Japanese people now realize that the new US Asian policy and collusion between the US imperialists and the Japanese reactionary authorities is threatening Japans's own vital interests. They have been therefore resisting it with vigour. Remarkably enough, in their struggle, the Japanese people have constantly been linking its objectives with the support for the South Vietnamese and the protest against the prolongation of the US aggressive war in Viet Nam and war expansion to Indochina.

In 1970 alone, the anti-US movement in Japan rose more impetuously than ever before. Following the March 15 action opening the traditional Spring Drive by more than 500,000 workers there were the June 23 demonstrations by over 1,670,000 people of various social strata in 1,200 different places. Angry slogans "US quit Asia!", "Cancellation of the Japan-US Security Treaty!", "Return of all Okinawa to Japan!"... were resounding all over the country. Also in Okinawa, another fierce protest was mounted on December 20 by 5,000 people against American troops for having run over a Japanese woman and against the Japanese authorities for shielding this murder.

Anti-US agitation was kept up in the early months of 1971, with the meetings of over 10,000 youth, students and workers at Hybiya Park on February 24 against the US-Saigon invasion of Laos, and of more than 6,000 people in Tokyo on the night of March 5 against US war extension in Indochina.

WITH CONCERTED EFFORTS, LET'S MARCH FORWARD TO OUR VICTORY OVER THE COMMON ENEMY

THE Japanese people's attempt to defend national interests is a just one. It is identified with the movements against imperialism, new and old colonialism and against the US aggressive war in Indochina. The South Vietnamese people fully support the brother Japanese people's valiant effort and insist that the US cancel the US-Japan military treaty, return immediately the whole of Okinawa to Japan and remove all US military bases in Japan.

The South Vietnamese people have made a most effective contribution to the Japanese people's drive by foiling the "Vietnamization of the war," the first step of the "Nixon doctrine on Asia," and will continue to pour a murderous fire on the US imperialists so as to co operate with the Japanese people in totally defeating the common enemy of both the Vietnamese and Japanese peoples, in the defence of peace in Asia and the world.

DAI LIEN

The population in Shizuoka (Okinawa) in a protest demonstration against US Navy's manoeuvres in Numazu and US aggression in Indochina

Madame NGUYEN THI BINH to the Americans:

"I WISH GREAT SUCCESS TO YOUR SPRING OFFENSIVE..."

Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chief of the RSVN PRG Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, sent on April 19, a letter to the participants in the 1971 anti-war Spring Offensive. The letter said in full:

Dear American Friends,

I wish to extend my warmest greetings to all American friends of all social positions, political tendencies, and religious beliefs participating in this Spring Offensive. Once again you have gathered in Washington, New York, San Francisco, and many other big cities to speak up the voice of genuine America, the peace-loving and justice-minded America, demanding that your government end the Viet Nam war.

More than ever, an end to the war has become a pressing demand of the people of our two countries, so that the Vietnamese people may live free from suffering and mournings, reconstruct their devastated homeland, and heal the sentimental wounds in each of their hearts, and so that the American people's wealth and manpower may be wholly devoted to the urgent demands of their life.

Yet, in his April 7th speech, President Nixon showed no concern about the aspirations of the Vietnamese and the American peoples.

To our demand of an end to the war, Mr Nixon answers that he will continue his policy of "Vietnamization," i.e. the prolongation and expansion of the war. To plead for this policy, Mr Nixon boastfully speaks of its imaginary successes, not only in South Viet Nam, Cambodia but also in Laos, despite the glaring defeat of the US and Saigon troops in Khe Sanh area of South Viet Nam and in Southern Laos.

We demand that Mr Nixon set a reasonable date for the total withdrawal of American troops to come to a cease-fire between the Liberation Armed Forces and the US forces, and discussions on the question of releasing militarymen captured in the Viet Nam war. Yet, Mr Nixon deliberately ignores this flexible proposal of the PRG on this matter, put forth on September 17, 1970 and December 10, 1970. He shamelessly deceives the American people, arguing that setting a deadline for the withdrawal would be tantamount to "throwing away his principal bargaining counter to win the release of US prisoners" and would endanger the security of American troops.

To the South Vietnamese people's demand of a representative administration standing for peace, independence and neutrality, Mr Nixon answers that he will not renounce his "friends," the warlike and corrupt trio Thieu-Ky-Khiem that he wants to impose on the South Vietnamese people. And in order to soothe the American people's dissatisfaction at his speech, he displays a profusion of rhetorical talks about peace, freedom and mutual respect.

In fact, the only explanation possible of Mr Nixon's attitude is his unwillingness to stop the war and to withdraw all the American troops from South Viet Nam, in utter disregard of the mournings and devastations suffered by the South Vietnamese people and the twinges of conscience felt by the American people in face of the monstrous crimes committed by the US army in South Viet Nam, in the name of the United States.

Dear American friends of all groupings, the youth, students, women, working people, intellectuals, congressmen, clergymen, businessmen, writers, artists and Viet Nam veterans;

I wish to tell you that we, South Vietnamese people, ardently cherish peace and freedom, that we desire maintaining friendly relations with the American people. In this spirit we are seeking an appropriate political solution to the South Viet Nam problem to bring an end to this brutal war and establish new relations between the two countries. But the US government striving for military victory and domination of our people, has shown no interest for negotiations. All our reasonable and logical proposals concerning the safe withdrawal of all US troops, the cease-fire between the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces and the US forces, the release of captured militarymen and a just settlement of the political question in South Viet Nam have been blacked out by the US government and are not widely known to American public.

However, the American people of all walks of life are quite different from their government. Through the recent trial of Lt William Calley, they have better realized that US honour does not consist in pursuing that immoral and hopeless war but in respecting other people's freedom, justice, and dignity. Therefore, Americans of various social strata, including Congressmen, are participating in growing numbers in anti-war activities throughout the country. They are resolutely voicing their legitimate aspirations, demanding that the US government end the war and set a time-limit for the rapid withdrawal of all GIs from South Viet Nam.

I wish great success to your Spring Offensive and hope that different groups of the US anti-war movement will come to still better co-ordination in taking more effective actions to demand that the Nixon administration seriously negotiate a political solution so that the war be ended and peace be restored in Viet Nam.

With cordial greetings and sincere wishes for friendship and solidarity.

In the United States

MORE ON U.S. ANTI-WAR SPRING

THE 1971 Spring Anti-War Campaign has been in an effervescence in the US.

In response to the Campaign Organizing Committee's appeal, tens of thousands of American students, youth, women, armymen and intellectuals turned out in the streets.

On April 10 and 18, 500 American women streamed to Washington from various parts of the country, and demonstrated in front of the White House and Pentagon, pressing for an end to the Viet Nam war and the repatriation of American troops. Many marchers tied themselves to the iron fence of a house beside the White House in protest against the continuation of the aggressive war.

In Washington, tens of thousands of Viet Nam veterans sponsored the anti-war week (April 19-23) with repeated demonstrations outside the White House or in front of the Capitol. The demonstrators broke into the Congress Hall, threw away the orders or medals they had been awarded in Viet Nam and urged the Senators to endorse the anti-war petition that demanded the total pullout of the US troops from South Viet Nam by the end of this year.

The campaign culminated in big demonstrations with the participation of some one million persons in Washington and San Francisco on April 24. "The five-hour-plus demonstration, one of the leargest—if not the largest America—has had" (*AP*, Apr. 24) broke out in Washington with active-duty GIs and veterans, oldagers and Senators leading the way. The demonstration was swelling with increasing participants from towns and cities who streamed into Washington where US troops were put on the alert on April 24. All government offices, except the Pentagon and the Justice Department were closed and Nixon hurriedly left the White House.

In San Francisco, some 500,000 people paraded on a distance of over 10 kms with the participation of Mayor Joseph Alioto and some 50 priests.

In Boston, Viet Nam veterans demonstrated in main thoroughfares and distributed leaflets against US crimes in South Viet Nam in coordinated actions with the aforesaid anti-war move.

The New York Times recently ran an advertisement by 49 war veterans belonging to the 1st US Air Cavalry Division, pledging participation in the Spring Anti-War Campaign, and in the money collection for the marchers' benefit.

Similar anti-war protests were also staged by American youth and students in San Francisco, Princeton and many other cities. The dissenters at once answered the "questions on the youth" put by the White House, urging that first of all the US must pull out all American troops from Indochina and immediately cease US involvement in that war.

On April 20, the leading committee of the US Student Organizations inaugurated a "Week of National Actions for a Peace Treaty," and called for the students' active response.

Previously, in New York, the "Coalition of Americans of Asian Origin" had held a press conference, denouncing US genocide and its declared readiness to take part in the "Spring Anti-War Campaign."

The "Lawyers' Committee on American Policy Towards Viet Nam" has sent a letter to US Senators requesting the US Congress to force Nixon to bring the Indochinese war to a stop.

The 1971 Spring Anti-War Campaign of the American people has been enjoying the cooperation of the drive against Nixon among the US political circles.

On April 12 and 13 Vermont, Virginia and Minnesota legislatures adopted resolutions demanding the immediate pullout of American troops from South Viet Nam, the review of the US president's authority, and asserting the US citizens' right to non-participation in the illegal Viet Nam war. Senator P. McCloskey is heading a "Scrap Nixon movement," with the participation of many Republican Senators such as Edward W. Brooke, Jim Ollins, M. Hatfield...

Democratic Senator Mike Gravel, founder of the "Down with War" Organization, also launched a nationwide anti-war campaign, for the immediate restoration of peace in Viet Nam. On April 20, 50 well-known American personalities including two Ex-Attorneys General Katzenbach and Ramsey Clark, Ex-Defence Secretary C. Clifford, announced the founding of a "National Coalition for an Indochina Deadline" with a view to mobilizing American opinion to pressure the US government into bringing all American troops back from South Viet Nam before the end of this year.

Senators E. Kennedy and Pucinski said they would table a resolution for the retirement of GIs and an end to the replacement of army units back from Viet Nam. Ex-Vice-President Hubert Humphrey said he would put forward a draft bill on US citizens' rights to enjoy peace and not to take part in any aggressive war. Wilbur Mills, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, stated that the US would never win a military victory in South-East Asia and pressed for the speediest possible repatriation of American troops.

On April 19 and 24, Senators P. McCloskey, Phillip Hart, John Conyers and 20 others joined the gatherings and demonstrations. Many other Senators declared their coming response to this anti-war campaign.